A SECOND AND MOST EXACT RELATION OF THOSE SAD AND LAMENTABLE Accidents, which happened in and about the Pariſh Church of *Wydecombe* neere the *Dartmoores*, in *Devonſhire*, on Sunday the 21. of *October* laſt, 1638.

PSAL. 46. 8.

Come, behold the workes of the Lord, what deſolations hee hath made in the earth.

LONDON,
Printed by *G.M.* for *R: Harford*, and are to be ſold at his ſhop in *Queenes*-head-alley in *Pater-noſter-row* at the guilt Bible, 1638.

To the Reader.

HEre present thee with a second Relation of that wonderfull accident, which the printing of the former Book hath given occasion of. Having now received a full and perfect Relation as is possible to be hoped for, or procured, assuring thee it is not grounded on information taken up at second hand, but those persons being now come to *London*, who were eye witnesses herein, and the chiefest discoverers of the effects of these terrible accidents; although thou hadst the truth in part before, yet not the tithe thereof, the fulll relation whereof

thou ſhalt finde here annexed following after the former Relation, ſupplied in all thoſe particulars, wherein there was any defect before, ſuppoſing it better to annexe it then to diſſolve and blend it with the former; what thou hadſt not before ſhall onely be ſupplied now, and no more, and what thou findeſt not here, take to be true, as they are expreſſed there, and although it be larger then our former, yet wee deſired in penning thereof not to trouble thee with many words, but onely the ſubſtance of this ſad matter, as conciſely as we could, and though the price be more, yet ſuſpend thy cenſure til thou haſt peruſed it, and then it may be thou wilt give him thankes, who hath beene at the paines to add this to the former, which hee would not have done, unleſſe hee could tender it upon very good authority and teſtimony of witneſſes more then needfull: wee know fame and report varie exceedingly, not knowing wherein to

pitch

pitch our beleefe, for it much increaſeth or diminiſheth by flying, according to the apprehenſion and memory both of the givers out, and takers up; but take this on his word, who onely wiſheth and intendeth thy good.

Farewell.

A TRVE RELATION OF those most strange and lamentable Accidents, happening in the Parish Church of *Wydecombe* in *Devonshire* on Sunday the 21. of *October*. 1638.

GODS visible Iudgements, and terrible remonstrances (which every morning are brought to light) comming unto our knowledge, should bee our observation and admonition, *that thereby the inhabitants of*

of the earth may learne Righteouſneſſe, for to let them paſſe by us (as water runnes by our doores) unobſerved; argues too much regardleſneſſe of GOD in the way of his Iudgements: not to ſuffer them to ſinke into our affections, and to proove as ſo many terrible warning pieces, which are ſhot off from a watch Tower, to give notice of an enemies approach, to awaken and affright us; are but a meanes to harden our hearts againſt the Lord, and to awaken his Iuſtice to puniſh us yet more: But *to heare and feare* and to doe wickedly no more; to ſearch our hearts and amend our waies is the beſt uſe that can bee made of any of GODS remarkable terrors manifeſted among us. When GOD is angry with us, it ought to be our wiſedome to meete him, and make peace with him: And where wee ſee legible Characters of his power and wrath; to learne to ſpell out his meaning touching

Eph. 3. 5.

Iſa. 26. 9, 11.

Pœna paucorũ terror omnium.

ching our ſelves; to leave off all buſie, malitious, cauſleſſe, and unchriſtianly cenſuring of others, and to turne in upon our ſelves, remembring, *Vel pœnitendum, vel pereundum, Except wee repent, wee ſhall likewiſe periſh.* Luk. 13. 5. Certaine it is that wee doe in vaine expect immunity from GODS Iudgements by ſleighting, or contemning them, or increaſing in our ſinnings againſt him. If *Pharoah* by the terrour of thundring and lightning was ſo affrighted that hee ſaith to *Moſes, Intreat the Lord (for it is enough) that there bee no more mighty thundrings and Haile.* Exo 9 28. And if *Caligula*, out of the feare of thunder, would runne under his bed to hide himſelfe: How much more ſhould we Chriſtians learne to feare and tremble before the moſt mighty GOD, *whoſe voice only can ſhake the mountaines and rend the rocks, and divide the flames of fire*; Pſal. 29. rends Churches, amazeth, and ſtrikes dead at his pleaſure the ſonnes

of

of men? as the Prophet *David* ſaith, *Hee doth whatſoever hee pleaſeth in Heaven and Earth, Hee cauſeth the vapours to aſcend from the ends of the earth, and maketh lightnings for the raine, and bringeth the winde out of the treaſures of the earth, ſo unſearchable is his Wiſedome, and his waies paſt finding out.* Therfore this ſhould awe and humble our hearts before the LORD, riſing up unto more perfection in godlineſſe, doing unto our GOD, more and better ſervice then ever hitherto wee have done, reverencing and ſanctifying his dreadfull Name in our hearts: eſpecially when his Iudgements breake in upon men, even in his owne houſe, *mingling their bloud with their ſacrifices*, and that in a moſt terrible manner ſmiting, and wounding, and killing, as in this enſuing Relation may appeare: which for the ſuddennеſſe and ſtrangeneſſe thereof, and in a manner miraculous, conſidering the many circumſtances, I

beleeve few Ages can paralell, or produce the like. The Lord teach thee to profit thereby, that it may bee as a Sermon preached to thee from Heaven by the Lord himſelfe.

VPon Sunday the 21. of *October* laſt, In the Pariſh Church of *Wydecombe* neere the *Dartmoores* in *Devonſhire*, there fell in time of Divine Service a ſtrange darkeneſſe, increaſing more and more, ſo that the people there aſſembled could not ſee to reade in any booke, and ſuddenly in a fearefull and lamentable manner, a mighty thundering was heard, the ratling whereof did anſwer much like unto the ſound and report of many great Cannons, and terrible ſtrange lightening therewith, greatly amazing thoſe that heard and

ſaw

ſaw it, the darkneſſe increaſing yet more, till they could not ſee one another; the extraordinarie lightening came into the Church ſo flaming, that the whole Church was preſently filled with fire and ſmoke, the ſmell whereof was very loathſome, much like unto the ſent of brimſtone, ſome ſaid they ſaw at firſt a great fiery ball come in at the window and paſſe thorough the Church, which ſo affrighted the whole Congregation that the moſt part of them fell downe into their ſeates, and ſome upon their knees, ſome on their faces, and ſome one upon another, with a great cry of burning and ſcalding, they all giving up themſelves for dead, ſuppoſing the laſt Iudgement day was come, and that they had beene in the very flames of Hell.

The Miniſter of the Pariſh, Maſter *George Lyde*, being in the Pulpit or ſeate where prayers are read, however hee might bee much aſtoniſhed

hereat, yet through GODS mercy had no other harme at all in his body; but to his much griefe and amazement, beheld afterward the lamentable accidents; and although himselfe was not touched, yet the lightening seized upon his poore Wife, fired her ruffe and linnen next to her body, and her cloathes; to the burning of many parts of her body in a very pitifull manner. And one Mistresse *Ditford* sitting in the pew with the Ministers wife, was also much scalded, but the maid and childe sitting at the pew dore had no harme. Beside, another woman adventuring to run out of the Church, had her cloathes set on fire, and was not only strangely burnt and scorched, but had her flesh torne about her back almost to the very bones. Another woeman had her flesh so torne and her body so grievously burnt, that she died the same night.

Also one Master *Hill* a Gentleman of good account in the Parish, sitting in his

seate

ſeate by the Chancell, had his head ſuddenly ſmitten againſt the wall, through the violence whereof he died that night, no other hurt being found about his body; but his ſonne ſitting in the ſame ſeate had no harme. There was alſo one man more, at the ſame inſtant, of whom it is particularly related, who was Warriner unto Sir *Richard Reynolds*, his head was cloven, his skull rent into three peeces, and his braines throwne upon the ground whole, and the haire of his head, through the violence of the blow at firſt given him, did ſticke faſt unto the pillar or wall of the Church, and in the place a deepe bruiſe into the wall as if it were ſhot againſt with a Cannon bullet.

Some other perſons were then blaſted and burnt, and ſo grievouſly ſcalded and wounded, that ſince that time they have died therof; and many other not like to recover, notwithſtanding all the meanes that can bee procured to helpe them.

Some

Some had their cloathes burnt and their bodies had no hurt, and ſome on the contrary, had their bodies burnt, and their cloathes not touched, and ſome their ſtockings and leggs burnt and ſcalded, and their outward buskings not one thred ſinged. But it pleaſed GOD yet in the midſt of judgement to remember mercy, ſparing ſome and not deſtroying all, yet very many were ſorely ſcalded in divers parts of their bodies, and as all this hurt was done upon the bodies of men and women, ſo the hurt alſo that was then done unto the Church was remarkable.

There were ſome Seates in the Body of the Church turned upſide downe, and yet they which ſate in them had little or no hurt; alſo a Boy ſitting on a ſeate had his hat on, and neare the one halfe thereof was cut off, and he had no hurt. And one man going out at the Chancell doore, a Dogg running out before him, was whirled about

about towards the doore and fell downe ſtarke dead: at the ſight whereof hee ſtepped backe within the doore, and GOD preſerved him alive. Alſo the Church it ſelfe was much torne and defaced by the thunder and lightning; and thereby alſo a beame was burſt in the midſt, and fell downe betweene the Miniſter and Clarke and hurt neither; and a weighty great ſtone, neare the Foundation of the Church is torne out and remooved, and the ſteeple it ſelfe is much rent, and there where the Church was moſt rent, there was leaſt hurt done to the people, and not any one was hurt either with the wood or ſtone, but a maid of *Manaton*, which came thither that afternoone to ſee ſome friends, whom Maſter *Frynd* the *Coroner* by circumſtances, ſuppoſed ſhe was kild with a ſtone. There were alſo ſtones throwne from the Tower and carried about a great diſtance from the Church, as thick as if a hundred men had beene

there throwing, and a number of them of ſuch weight and bigneſſe, that the ſtrongeſt man cannot lift them. Alſo one Pinacle of the Tower was torne downe and broke through into the Church.

Moreover the Pillar againſt which the Pulpit ſtandeth, being but newly whited, is now by this meanes turned black and ſulphry. Furthermore, one man that ſtood in the Chancell, with his face toward the Bellfrey, obſerved as it were the riſing of duſt or lime, in the lower end of the Church, which ſuddenly (as with a puffe of winde) was whirled up and caſt into his eyes, ſo that hee could not ſee in twelve houres after; but now his ſight is reſtored, and hee hath no other hurt. The terrible lightening being paſt, all the people being in a wonderfull maze, ſo that they ſpake not one word, by and by one Maſter *Raph Rouſe*, Vintner in the Towne, ſtood up, ſaying theſe words, Neighbours, in the name of God

ſhall

ſhall we venture out of the Church, to which M. *Lyde* anſwering, ſaid, it is beſt to make an end of prayers, for it were better to die here then in another place, but they looking about them, and ſeeing the Church ſo terribly rent and torne, durſt not proceed in their publike devotions, but went forth of the Church.

And as all this was done within the Church, and unto the Church; ſo there were other accidents without the Church; of which I will give you a touch. There was a Bowling alley neare unto the Church-yard, which was turned up into pits and heapes, in manner almoſt as if it had beene plowed. At the ſame time alſo at *Brixſton* neare *Plymmouth*, there fell ſuch ſtore of Haile, and ſuch Haile-ſtones, that for quantity they were judged to be as big as ordinary Turkies eggs; ſome of them were of five, ſome of ſix, and others of ſeven ounces weight.

We are alſo certainely informed that

at the same time, as neare as it can bee guessed, there fell out the like accident unto the Church at *Norton* in *Somersetshire*, but as yet wee heare of no persons hurt therein: Also it is related by a Gentleman who travelled in those parts at that time, hee being since come to *London*, that where he was the lightening was so terrible, fiery and flaming, that they thought their houses at every flash were set on fire, in so much that their horses in the stable were so affrighted that they could not rule them.

The Addition to the former Relation.

THis Church of *Wydecombe* being a large and faire Church newly trim'd, there belonging to it a very faire Steeple or Tower, with great and small pinacles thereon, it being one of the famousest Towers in all those Westerne parts;

parts; and there being gathered a great Congregation, to the number, as is verily beleeved, of at least 300. persons.

Master *Lyde* with many others in the Church did see presently after the darkneſſe, as it were a great ball of fire, and moſt terrible lightening come in at the window, and therewithall the roofe of the Church in the lower part againſt the Tower to rend and gape wide open, whereat he was ſo amazed, that hee fell downe into his ſeate, and unſpeakeable are the mighty ſecret wonders the Lord wrought immediately, of which, becauſe thou haſt the generall Relation before; I will give thee this as neare as can bee diſcovered in the order and courſe thereof, which firſt began in the Tower, and thence into the Church, the power of that vehement and terrible blaſt ſtruck in at the North-ſide of the Tower, tearing through a moſt ſtrong ſtone-wall into the ſtaires, which goes up round with ſtone ſteps to the top of the leades, and

being gotten in, ſtruck againſt the other ſide of the wall, and finding not way forth there, it rebounded back againe with greater force to that ſide next the Church, and piercing through right againſt the higher window of the Church, tooke the greateſt part thereof with it and likewiſe ſome of the ſtones, and frame of the window, and ſo ſtruck into the Church, comming with a mighty power it ſtruck againſt the North-ſide wall of the Church, as if it were with a great Cannon bullet or ſomewhat like thereto, and not going through, but exceedingly ſhaking and battering the wall, it tooke its courſe directly up that Ile ſtrait to the Pulpit or Seate where Maſter *Lyde* ſate, and in the way thence going up it tooke all the lime and ſand of the wall, and much grated the ſtones thereof, and tore off the ſide desk of the Pulpit, and upon the Pulpit on the ſide thereof it was left as black and moiſt as if it had beene newly wiped with Inke.

Then

Then it goes ſtrait up in the ſame Ile, and ſtrook off all the hinder part of the Warriners head, the braines fell backward intire and whole into the next ſeate behind him, and two peeces of his ſcull, and daſht his blood againſt the wall, the other peece of his ſcull fell into the ſeate where he ſate, and ſome of the skin of his head, fleſh and haire was carried into the Chancell, and ſome of his haire to the quantity of a handfull, ſtuck faſt as with lime and ſand newly tempered upon one of the barres of the timber-work partiſſion betweene the Church and Chancell. And one man who ſate next to the Wartiner in the ſame ſeate, was ſcalded and all burnt on that ſide next the Warriner, from the very head to the foot, and no hurt at all on the other ſide. And in the ſecond ſeate behind him was another ſtruck, in a moſt fearefull manner; for he was ſo burned and ſcalded all over his body, from his forehead downeward below his knees,

in

in ſo much that hee was all over like raw fleſh round about, and which is moſt wonderfull his cloathes not once hurt; neither his head nor haire, who notwithſtanding died not then, but lived in great miſery above a week after.

But to goe on in our Relation. It is ſuppoſed (it having beene ſince by divers judiciouſly viewed) that here the power or force devided it ſelfe two waies; one part whereof ſtruck out of the window over their heads, vvhich tore out and carried away ſome great ſtones out of the vvall vvith the vvindow, and further they could not trace it, but vvith the force of the ſtroake at going forth, it ſtruck the lime and ſand on the vvall vvith many ſmall ſtones, or grit, ſo forcibly, that the lime, ſand, and grit returned backe like haile-ſhot to the other ſide of the vvall vvhere men did ſit, and ſtruck into their faces, much disfiguring them, and ſmote into the vvall,

and

and into the timber of the partition, ſome of vvhich ſtones could not bee pickt out till the next day following.

But the other part of the force deſcended to the bottome of the wall juſt before the Warriners ſeate, and there peirced in, heaving up all the vvall in that place, rending and tearing it from the very ground, as high almoſt as the height of a man. there it broke through into the Chancell, and about the number of eight boyes ſitting about the rayles of the Communion Table, it tooke them up from the ſeates and threw them all on heapes within the rayles, and not one of them hurt, and one of them having his hat lying upon the raile, it was cut and burned halfe away.

Then it went directly over to the other ſide of the Chancell, and ſtruck Maſter *Hill* mortally in his head, ſo that hee died that night; but his Sonne,

ſitting as cloſe by him as one man can ſit by another, for the ſeate would hold but two, hee had no harme at all, not ſo much as once ſinged. But it ſtruck againſt the vvall ſo forcibly, that it beate in the vvall behind him as if it had beene ſhot againſt with a Cannon bullet, as it is expreſſed in the former Relation; but there not going through, it recoiles backe againe, comming about the Chancell, as it is conceived, and tore out violently one of the great ſide ſtones of the Chancell doore againſt vvhich it ſmote, cleaving it all to peeces, and there it is ſuppoſed it went forth; but ſome reaſons there are to thinke it did not, for none of the peeces of the ſide ſtone were carried out with it, but fell downe within the Chancell: beſides, the conſideration of the mighty ſtrange and ſecret workes thereof in the body of the Church, for there it had rent and tore and flung about marvellouſly.

The

The ſeates where men and women ſate were rent up, turned upſide downe, and they that ſate in them had no harme; alſo many of thoſe pewes and ſeates rent quite from the bottome as if there had beene no ſeates there, and thoſe that ſate in them, when they came to themſelves, found that they were throwne out their owne into other ſeates three or foure ſeates higher, and yet had no harme. And moreover all the wood, timber and ſtones were torne all to peeces, and violently throwne every way to the very walles of the Church round about.

One man ſitting upon the Church-Beere, at the lower end, the Beere was ſtruck and torne, and hee that ſate thereon was throwne into one of the pewes by the wall ſide, a good diſtance off.

Many alſo both men and women being very much burned and ſcalded in divers places of their bodies, and

after divers manners, to the number of fiftie or sixtie, among whom Mistresse *Lyde* the Ministers wife was one, who suffered herein as it is related in the former. And also Mistresse *Ditford* her gowne, two wastcoates, and linnen next her body, burned cleane off; and her back also very grievously downe to her waste burned and scalded, and so exceedingly afflicted thereby, shee could neither stand nor goe without helpe, being lead out of the Church. And one antient woman was so terribly burnt, and her flesh torne, especially her hand, the flesh was so rotten and perished, her hand is cut off that it might not endanger her arme; and many of those that were then burned and scalded have since died thereof.

And furthermore, all the roofe of the Church is terribly torne, and a great part thereof broken into the Church by some great stones, that were torne off

off the Tower, and all the other part hangs fearefully, all ragged and torne in divers places, ready to drop downe; it tore likewiſe all the windowes, ſhooke and rent the Church walls in divers places, but the Chancell roofe had little or no hurt. Moreover a Beame was burſt in ſunder vvhich fell downe betweene the Miniſter and Clarke, yet hurt neither. Nor vvas there in all this time any one hurt either vvith ſtick or ſtone, but onely one man that had a little bruiſe on his backe; and as there vvas leaſt hurt done where the timber and ſtone fell moſt, ſo on the contrary; vvhere no timber nor ſtone fell, there vvas moſt hurt done. And all this vvhile, after the firſt terrible noiſe and lightening, not one in the Church can remember they either heard or ſaw any thing, being all deadly aſtoniſhed.

And vvhen the lightening vvas paſt, the people being ſtill in a maze, not

one could ſpeake a word to another, but by and by Maſter *Rouſe* came a little to himſelfe, ſtanding up, ſpake as in the former Relation, and ſpeaking to Maſter *Lyde*, hee alſo thereupon began to recover himſelfe, and anſwered as well as hee could tremblingly, as is expreſſed before, not knowing of any hurt that vvas done either to his Wife or any elſe; but they looking about them, ſaw a very thick miſt, with ſmother, ſmoake and ſmell, inſo much, that they nor any there ſaw the danger over their heads. But they two going forth together at the Chancell doore, they ſaw the Dogg whirled up ſome height from the ground, taken up and let downe againe three times together, and at laſt fell downe ſtone dead, all the lightening being paſt, neither could they ſee any thing at all neare the Dogg.

Then preſently the reſt of the people ſcrabled forth the Church as well

as

as they could; the miſt and ſmother goingaway by degrees, but not quite gone in halfe an houre after: And being come forth they ſaw their danger, which before they knew not; for the Tower and Church was grievouſly crackt, and ſhattered; And ſome of the ſtones on the Church and Tower torne off, and throwne every way round about, and huge waighty ſtones ſplit all too pecces, ſome throwne diſtant from the Church at leaſt an hundred yards. And one great ſtone like a maſſie rocke, vvas carried off the pinacle all over the Eaſt end of the Church, and over the Church-yard, and into another cloſe over the hedge, there it grays'd, breaking up the ground deepely; and as it is imagined, it was done by that maſſie ſtone, which was carried at leaſt ten yards beyond, and there bruiſed the ground very deepe, where it lay unmooveable.

And on the other ſide of the Church, there

there is a bowling-greene, torne up and ſpoyled with ſtones as before; Among many others there fell therein one great broad ſtone, like a Table, and in the fall was broken all to peeces, they being ſtruck edge-waies into the ground, alſo many great ſtones were ſunke ſo deepe on all ſides the Church, that ſome were ſtruck in even with the ground, and ſome lower. Some ſtones were throwne over Maſter *Rouſe* his houſe an hundred yards from the Church, and ſunke into the earth not to bee ſeene, but onely the hole where the ſtone went downe; and Maſter *Rouſe* his Houſe, on that ſide next the Church, was torne up, the covering carried off, and one of the rafters broke into the Houſe.

Then a while after, before night, they adventured into the Church to fetch out the dead bodies, ſome whereof being brought forth, and laid in the Church-yard; there was then pre-

preſent a woman, being till that time much aſton'd, comming better to her ſelfe, upon ſight of the dead bodies remembred, that ſhee brought her childe to Church with her, they then going in to ſeeke for it, found her childe going hand in hand with another little childe, being met comming downe one of the Iles, and had no hurt, nor ſeemed not to bee any thing frighted by their countenances; neither was there any children in the Church hurt at all: but the other childs mother was gone home, never remembring ſhee had a childe till it was brought to her.

But as ſtrange a thing as any of theſe was that, concerning *Robert Meade* the Warriner; he being not miſt all this while, immediatly Maſter *Rouſe* his deare acquaintance remembred him, and ſeeing him not, nor none knowing what was become of him, Maſter *Rouſe* ſtepping to the window, looked

into the Church where the Warriner uſed to ſit, and there ſaw him ſitting in his Seate, leaning upon his elbow, his elbow reſting upon the deske before him, hee ſuppoſed him to bee a ſleepe, or aſton'd, not yet come to himſelfe; hee calling to awake him, wondered hee made no anſwer, then his love to him cauſed him to venter into the Church, to jogg him awake, or to remember him, and then to his much griefe hee perceived his friend to bee a dead man; for all the hinder part of his head was cleane cut off and gone round about his neck, and the fore-part not disfigured, as they ſuppoſed when they drew neare him.

The Lord of the Mannor of *Wydecombe* hearing of this ſadd accident, ſent his man, *David Barry*, that night thither, to heare what newes, and to ſee what hurt was done, but it being darke, hee could ſee nothing that night, but

onely

onely heare their Relations. But on Munday the day following, they came to take notice, and view the ruines of the Church, and what accidents had fallen out; then all this Relation was made apparant to him, and I may safely say, to thousands more of Witnesses, that are ready to give testimony to all this Relation.

But having seene and observed as much as they could about the Church; the Tower being locked up; what hurt was done there, was as yet unknowne: there being then a motion made to open the doore to see what hurt, no man was found willing to adventure, much lesse ascend up therein, all the people being as yet in a terrible feare; the remembrance of their great hurts and dangers, being so fresh in their mindes; for some being to bee buried in the Church that afternone, as namely, Master *Hill*, and *Robert Meade*, their graves

being close by one another; the Minister read the buriall to both at once, and when hee came to those words, *Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust*, the fall whereof making a sudden noise upon the Coffins, made them all in a great feare runne out of the Church, tumbling over one another, supposing that the Church was falling on their heads.

But the said *David* resolved to venture himselfe to discover what hee could, and calling for the key to open the doore, it was brought by the Sextone, yet they all perswaded him not to venture, for the Tower was so crazie, torne, and shattered, that they were all of opinion it might fall, as they might well judge by the outside; but hee putting in the key to open the doore, it would not unlocke it, but runne quite through; then the Sextone hee trying, also could finde no lock, and yet the doore still fast, then an

Iron

Iron barre being uſed to force it off the hinges, it could not bee done thereby, till at laſt hee eſpying the bolt of the lock ſhot into the ſtaple, deſired them to hold the doore up with the barre, that hee might put in his arme to put backe the lock, and found there all the wood and wards of the lock gone, then the doore being with much adoe forced open, the ſaid *David* was to goe up firſt, and the Sextone to follow him, where hee found ſo much rubbiſh and ſtone tumbled downe, that he could hardly creepe up; hee having his ſword by his ſide, it troubled him, hee put it off, wiſhing the Clarke to hold it, while hee made way; but as they aſcended, there came downe the ſtaires a moſt loathſome ſmell beyond expreſſion, as it were of Brimſtone, pitch and ſulphur; hee notwithſtanding adventured higher, but the Sextons ſtomacke and courage being over-

come, partly by his feare, and alſo by the ſmell, hee returned backe in a great fright, complaining hee was poyſoned.

A multitude of people being there to obſerve the diſcovery, come from divers places thereabouts, to ſee and heare of this ſpreading ill newes, as daily multitudes doe reſort thither for that purpoſe, they all ſtood at a diſtance, waiting what could be found, but they not knowing what was become of him, becauſe the Sextone was ſo frighted, none daring to come neare to looke after him. But hee getting (with great difficulty, and danger of his life at every ſtep) up to the firſt ſtory, there hee viewed it, and found no hurt done, but getting with greater difficulty up to the Bell-roome, hee toled all the Bells to ſee if they were ſound or no, then the people much rejoyced, ſuppoſing hee was well.

Then

Then looking over head hee ſaw all the loyces and timber under the leads carried away, all rent and torne fearefully, except one beame under the middle which was bowed downe, and a great number of ſtones lying on the leads in a very ſtrange and dangerous manner, but his heart incouraging him to venture yet higher, hee attempted the leads, and getting up to the doore, hee ſaw a great danger over his head, at the ſight whereof his heart began to faile him, for the ſtones were carried cleane away under the inſide next the Church, and on the outſide ſo ſhaken that very little upheld them, then eſpying yet more danger then before, hee ſaw a great ſtone over his head, (as hee ſuppoſed) ready to drop downe upon him, that hee knew not whether to ſtay or goe downe, for feare of the falling thereof, then attempting to throw it downe, cryed as loud as hee poſſibly could,

could, being at the top, to ſtand cleare, for feare of danger hee catching hold on ſomewhat over his head, hung by his hands, and with his feet touched the weighty ſtone, which tumbled downe the ſtaires, never reſting till it came to the bottome, then all the people at the fall thereof thought hee was kild, but he preſently comming downe into the Bell-roome, toled the Bells againe, and thereby remooved their feare.

Then comming downe lower, in one place in the ſtaires, cloſe by the place where the Tower was moſt rent and ſhaken, there hee eſpied a thing very ſtrange to him, as if it had beene a Cannon diſcharged full of powder, and as if a bullet withall ſtruck and ſhooke it, and finding no way out, recoyled backe to another ſide, and there rent out a great part of the Tower, with mighty ſtones; and but a little above it, there was a round

patch

patch as broad as a buſhell, which looked thick, ſlimy and blacke, and blacke round about it, to which hee put his hand, and felt it ſoft, and bringing ſome thereof in his hand from the wall, came downe the ſtaires to the people, and ſhewed them that ſtrange compound, all much wondered thereat; and were affrighted, none knowing what it might bee, it was like ſlimy powder tempered with water, hee ſmelling thereto, it was ſo odious even beyond expreſſion, and in a farre higher degree of loathſomeneſſe, then the ſent which was in the Church or Tower when they firſt ſmelt it, it being of the ſame kinde; they ſuppoſing that ſtrong ſmell came from that, which did overcome the Sextones and this ſearchers ſtomacke almoſt.

Yet all this while found himſelfe reaſonable well, though much offended with ſmells; and going home with Maſter *Lyde* to ſupper, hee lod-

ged at Maſter *Rouſes*, and went well to bed, and an houre after, hee felt ſomething come upon him (as hee thought) on the outſide of his waſte and belly, as if it were a cord twiſted about him, two men pulling it with great ſtrength, which griped him in that unſpeakeable manner three or foure times, that hee thought himſelfe cut in ſunder therewith, not having any breath, nor none knowing what to doe to him, hee could take nothing downe at preſent to eaſe him, but by and by ridding his ſtomacke by vomiting, being in a great and terrible ſweat all this while, in ſo much that the ſheetes wherein he lay might have beene wringed, at laſt came up ſuch a loathſome vomit that ſmelt of the ſame nature that that did which he brought out of the Steeple, and after this taking ſome reſt he was very well in the morning.

All which moſt ſad and lamentable Spectacles were done (as it were) in a moment of time. This

This is the Summe of thoſe diſmall accidents and terrible examples happening in the place aforeſaid. And the maine drift in the publication of this great Iudgement, is for thy humiliation and edification, not onely to acquaint thee with the great and mighty works of Gods Power and Iuſtice, who in a moment can doe mighty things to us, and arme the creatures againſt us at his owne pleaſure, but alſo to moove pitty and compaſſion in us towards our Brethren who were patients therein, not judging them greater ſinners then our ſelves; but beleeving, *That except wee alſo repent and ſinne no more, wee ſhall likewiſe periſh, or worſe things befall us.* Which Relation you can difficultly reade without ſighs, nor underſtand without teares. I know it is the faſhion of too too many to queſtion and talke, and make things of this nature, but *a nine dayes wonder*: But let us not deceive our ſelves

any longer, but consider, wee have beene lookers on a great while, and others have beene made our examples, and felt the smart at home and abroad, whilst wee have gone free; but wee know not how soone our turnes and changes may come; these accidents might as well have happened to us as them; the LORD therfore in much mercy fit us both for the worst of times and the best of Ends. I end all with that prayer in our Letany, commending thee and this to the blessing of the Almighty.

From lightening and tempest, from Plague, Pestilence and Famine, from Battell and murder, and from suddaine death.

Good LORD deliver us.

FINIS.

Imprimatur

THO: WYKES. R.P. *Ep. Lond. Cap. Domest.*

November 27.

1638.

C 25609
22304

REPRODUCED FROM THE COPY IN THE

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION